

CALFED Principals Worksheet

In-Delta Water Storage

Delta Wetlands Project

1. Reduce conflicts in the system.

a. The conflict between fisheries and water diversions.

DW will be benign or beneficial for fisheries.

b. The conflict between using land for habitat purposes and flood control.

Not applicable.

c. The conflict between water supply needs and other beneficial uses of water.

DW increases the state's water supply with minimal impact to other beneficial uses of water, e.g., Delta outflow.

d. The conflict between water quality considerations and land use.

DW will slightly improve water quality at the Delta export locations, but will change the land use of 20,000 acres in the Delta from agriculture to water storage and wetland habitat.

2. Resolve problems in all of the identified problem areas.

a. Water supply.

DW will increase the state's water supply by approximately 200,000 AF per year.

b. Water quality.

DW will slightly improve water quality at export locations per the DEIR/S.

c. Ecosystem quality.

DW will significantly increase terrestrial species habitat and will be benign or beneficial for fisheries.

d. Supply vulnerability.

DW will improve local flood protection and could be an important component during a Delta emergency. DW reservoirs, when full, could provide an emergency water supply during times of special needs. The project could be an important component in any emergency plan for various crisis conditions such as chemical spills, earthquakes or other events that threaten Delta water quality. If the reservoirs are empty during a flood event like Andrus Island in 1972, empty reservoirs could be filled with the salty water trapped in the south-central Delta. If the reservoirs were full during such an event, they could provide an in-Delta source of high quality water during the emergency.

3. Be affordable.

The DW Project is very competitive with other new water projects. The total project cost is approximately half the cost of the Los Banos Grandes Project.

4. Have political and economic staying power while sustaining the resources it is designed to protect.

DW has been under development since the initial permit applications in 1987. The DW Project has created an environmentally sensitive water storage project. The DW Project can now be brought online in a fairly short period of time and it could serve to illustrate to the rest of country and world that California is making progress toward solving its water supply crisis.

5. Have broad public acceptance and legal feasibility.

The public comments to the DEIR/S indicate a general acceptance of an in-Delta water storage project and it appears there are no legal obstacles to a water rights permit.

6. Not redirect "significant" negative impacts from Bay-Delta Estuary to other regions of California.

DW is a new water supply for the state that will not redirect impacts from the Bay-Delta Estuary and may actually take some pressure off upstream and senior water right holders.

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